

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4848  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY ROME

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TAGS: CGEN, CVIS, SHUM, US RO AU  
SUBJECT: ROMANIAN REFUGEES IN AUSTRIA

REF: BUCHAREST 417 (NOTAL)

1. WITH REFERENCE TO ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT'S APPARENT CURTAILMENT OF "VIENNA OPTION" FOR ROMANIAN REFUGEES, WE FIND JUSTIFICATION PUT FORWARD BY ROMANIAN OFFICIAL TOTALLY SPECIOUS (PARA 7, REFTEL). ATTEMPT TO RATIONALIZE THIS ACTION ON BASIS OF CONCERN FOR "INTOLERABLE AND INHUMAN CONDITIONS," "LONG WAITS" AND "UNCERTAIN FUTURE" REFUGEES FACE AT TRAIKIRCHEN REFUGEE FACILITY HERE APPEARS TO US TO BE EFFORT TO DEFLECT ATTENTION FROM SHORTCOMINGS OF ROMANIAN REGIME.

2. IN FAIRNESS TO EFFORTS OF AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND U.S. REFUGEE PROGRAM ON BEHALF OF EASTERN EUROPEAN REFUGEES, BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO PLACE ROMANIAN REFUGEES' SITUATION IN AUSTRIA IN PROPER  
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PERSPECTIVE, PARTICULARLY WITH REFERENCE TO TRAIKIRCHEN FACILITY. FOR WHATEVER REASON, NUMBER OF ROMANIAN REFUGEES ARRIVING IN VIENNA IS RISING, WITH ATTENDANT PUBLICITY. THIS FACT IN ITSELF IS EMBARRASSMENT TO GOR AND HIGHLY VISIBLE REFUTATION OF ITS SYSTEM. IT COULD ALSO EXPLAIN GOR ATTEMPT TO STOP RUNNING WOUND OF REFUGEES TO NEARBY AUSTRIA WHERE RECENT ARRIVALS CAN

AGITATE FOR EMIGRATION OF EVEN MORE ROMANIANS.

3. AS OF JANUARY 1, 1978, THERE WERE 309 ROMANIANS IN TRAIKIRCHEN. THEY COMPRISE SINGLE LARGEST NATIONAL GROUPING. IF PAST EXPERIENCE MAY BE RELIED UPON, APPROXIMATELY TWO-THIRDS OF REFUGEES OPT TO SETTLE OUTSIDE AUSTRIA AND HALF THAT NUMBER, I.E., ONE-THIRD OF TOTAL, FOR U.S. AS COUNTRY OF ULTIMATE DESTINATION. IN DECEMBER, 92 ROMANIANS ENTERED TRAIKIRCHEN AND 55 DEPARTED. APPROXIMATELY 25 OF CURRENT ROMANIAN INHABITANTS HAVE BEEN IN TRAIKIRCHEN LESS THAN ONE MONTH, 50 FOR LESS THAN TWO MONTHS AND 70 FOR LESS THAN THREE MONTHS.

4. WHILE TRAIKIRCHEN CERTAINLY CAN NOT BE DESCRIBED AS AFFORDING LUXURY ACCOMMODATION, IT IS PROBABLY THE BEST FACILITY OF ITS KIND IN EUROPE. IT WAS ORIGINALLY BUILT AS AN AUSTRIAN MILITARY OFFICERS ACADEMY AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY USED AS SECONDARY BOARDING SCHOOL, NAZI TRAINING SCHOOL AND SOVIET ARMY CAMP. IT CAN HOUSE APPROXIMATELY 2000 REFUGEES, - CURRENT INHABITANTS ABOUT 1500 -, AND HELD 5000 DURING 1956 HUNGARIAN CRISIS. FACILITY IS OPEN AND REFUGEES ARE FREE TO COME AND GO AS THEY PLEASE WITH SOME OBTAINING EMPLOYMENT IN SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES. FACILITY IS CLEAN, FOOD TOTALLY ADEQUATE AND MEDICAL CARE READILY AVAILABLE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VOLAGS THROUGH USRP ASSIST WITH OTHER NEEDS NOT PROVIDED BY AUSTRIANS. IT IS OUR EXPERIENCE THAT NUMBER OF REFUGEES, AND PARTICULARLY ROMANIANS FOR REASONS NOT CLEAR TO US, EXPECT MORE AND ARE DISAPPOINTED WHEN THEY FIND THEY HAVE ARRIVED IN VERY COMPETITIVE WORLD. (SEE 77 VIENNA 10619 AND 78 VIENNA 406). SOME REFUGEES APPROACH ROMANIAN EMBASSY HERE SEEKING MONEY AND OTHER ASSISTANCE, BUT RECEIVE SHORT SHRIFT. IT MUST BE BORNE IN MIND THAT MANY AUSTRIANS, AS WELL AS FOREIGN WORKERS HERE, ARE LIVING IN CONDITIONS ONLY marginally BETTER THAN THOSE PREVAILING AT TRAIKIRCHEN.

5. TRAIKIRCHEN HAS RECENTLY BEEN SUBJECT OF VISITS AND SUBSEQUENT ARTICLES BY TWO AMERICAN JOURNALISTS, MICHAEL GETTLER OF WASHINGTON POST (INT HERALD TRIBUNE, AUGUST 15, 1977) AND WILLIAM MADER (TIME, DECEMBER 5, 1977). CITED ARTICLES GIVE BALANCED PICTURE OF TRAIKIRCHEN SITUATION. WHILE NOTING SPARTAN LIVING CONDITIONS, CROWDING AND TENSIONS ENDEMIC TO REFUGEE SITUATION, THESE JOURNALISTS GAVE TRAIKIRCHEN RELATIVELY HIGH MARKS. WOLF

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## Message Attributes

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